

From: Commissioner Jerdonek  
Date: May 11, 2023

Subject: DVSError privacy flaw and San Francisco's Contract with Dominion

The purpose of this memo is to let the Commission and the public know about some sections of San Francisco's contract with Dominion Voting Systems that pertain to our recent discussions of the DVSError privacy flaw in San Francisco's Dominion voting system.

## Background

The agenda packet of the April 19, 2023 Commission meeting<sup>1</sup> included a memo I wrote about a California law that pertains to our discussions of DVSError. As I wrote, it appears that California Elections Code Sec. 19215 required Dominion to notify the Department of Elections about DVSError within 30 days of them being notified of the vulnerability. However, they didn't do so.

During the April meeting, I asked if San Francisco's contract with Dominion requires Dominion to follow the law. I also asked what legal options and remedies San Francisco has if Dominion is found not to have complied with the contract.

## Excerpts from Dominion Contract

Since the April meeting, I found that San Francisco's contract with Dominion<sup>2</sup> does require Dominion to follow the law. Specifically, Section 11.10 of the contract says (p. 21, see attached)—

**11.10 Compliance with Laws.** Contractor shall keep itself fully informed of the City's Charter, codes, ordinances and duly adopted rules and regulations of the City and of all state, and federal laws in any manner affecting the performance of this Agreement, and must at all times comply with such local codes, ordinances, and regulations and all applicable laws as they may be amended from time to time.

In addition, Section 8.2 ("Termination for Default; Remedies.") says (pp. 15-16, see attached)--

8.2.1 Each of the following shall constitute an immediate event of default ("Event of Default") under this Agreement:

(a) Contractor fails or refuses to perform or observe any term, covenant or condition contained in any of the following Sections of this Agreement:

...

- ...

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<sup>1</sup> April 19, 2023 Commission Meeting: <https://sf.gov/meeting/april-19-2023/elections-commission-regular-meeting>

<sup>2</sup> Draft 2019 Contract with Dominion:

<https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3864492&GUID=330CD550-B782-4950-87BC-A8DD3C669051>

- 11.10 Compliance with Laws
- ...

...

8.2.2 On and after any Event of Default, City shall have the right to exercise its legal and equitable remedies, including, without limitation, the right to terminate this Agreement or to seek specific performance of all or any part of this Agreement. In addition, where applicable, City shall have the right (but no obligation) to cure (or cause to be cured) on behalf of Contractor any Event of Default; Contractor shall pay to City on demand all costs and expenses incurred by City in effecting such cure, but under no circumstance shall Contractor be required to replace or incur any costs for replacing Contractor's System. ...

Party may pursue any remedy available under California law. The status of any dispute or controversy notwithstanding, Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement in accordance with the Agreement and the written directions of the City. Neither Party will be entitled to legal fees or costs for matters resolved under this section.

**11.6.2 Government Code Claim Requirement.** No suit for money or damages may be brought against the City until a written claim therefor has been presented to and rejected by the City in conformity with the provisions of San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 10 and California Government Code Section 900, et seq. Nothing set forth in this Agreement shall operate to toll, waive or excuse Contractor's compliance with the California Government Code Claim requirements set forth in San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 10 and California Government Code Section 900, et seq.

**11.7 Agreement Made in California; Venue.** The formation, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. Venue for all litigation relative to the formation, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be in San Francisco.

**11.8 Construction.** All paragraph captions are for reference only and shall not be considered in construing this Agreement.

**11.9 Entire Agreement.** This contract sets forth the entire Agreement between the parties, and supersedes all other oral or written provisions. This Agreement may be modified only as provided in Section 11.5, "Modification of this Agreement."

**11.10 Compliance with Laws.** Contractor shall keep itself fully informed of the City's Charter, codes, ordinances and duly adopted rules and regulations of the City and of all state, and federal laws in any manner affecting the performance of this Agreement, and must at all times comply with such local codes, ordinances, and regulations and all applicable laws as they may be amended from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Contractor cannot anticipate future changes in law that would impact System Requirements. As specified in Section 4.1.2, the System shall be able to collect, record, count, tabulate and report votes cast in accordance with System Requirements, but Contractor will not be required to make modifications to any Hardware as a result of changes in the System Requirements after the Agreement's Effective Date.

**11.11 Severability.** Should the application of any provision of this Agreement to any particular facts or circumstances be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, then (a) the validity of other provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected or impaired thereby, and (b) such provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent possible so as to effect the intent of the parties and shall be reformed without further action by the parties to the extent necessary to make such provision valid and enforceable.

**11.12 Cooperative Drafting.** This Agreement has been drafted through a cooperative effort of City and Contractor, and both Parties have had an opportunity to have the Agreement reviewed and revised by legal counsel. No Party shall be considered the drafter of this Agreement, and no presumption or rule that an ambiguity shall be construed against the Party drafting the clause shall apply to the interpretation or enforcement of this Agreement.

prejudgment interest, or any other expense which is not reasonable or authorized under Section 8.1.3.

8.1.5 In arriving at the amount due to Contractor under this Section, City may deduct: (i) all payments previously made by City for Services covered by Contractor’s final invoice; (ii) any claim which City may have against Contractor in connection with this Agreement; (iii) any invoiced costs or expenses excluded pursuant to the immediately preceding subsection 8.1.4; and (iv) in instances in which, in the opinion of the City, the cost of any Service performed under this Agreement is excessively high due to costs incurred to remedy or replace defective or rejected Services, the difference between the invoiced amount and City’s estimate of the reasonable cost of performing the invoiced Services in compliance with the requirements of this Agreement.

8.1.6 City’s payment obligation under this Section shall survive termination of this Agreement.

**8.2 Termination for Default; Remedies.**

8.2.1 Each of the following shall constitute an immediate event of default (“Event of Default”) under this Agreement:

(a) Contractor fails or refuses to perform or observe any term, covenant or condition contained in any of the following Sections of this Agreement:

3.5	Submitting False Claims.	10.10	Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace
4.5	Assignment	11.10	Compliance with Laws
Article 5	Insurance and Indemnity	13.1	Nondisclosure of Private, Proprietary or Confidential Information
Article 7	Payment of Taxes		

(b) Contractor fails or refuses to perform or observe any other term, covenant or condition contained in this Agreement, including any obligation imposed by ordinance or statute and incorporated by reference herein, and such default continues for a period of thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from City to Contractor.

(c) Contractor (i) is generally not paying its debts as they become due; (ii) files, or consents by answer or otherwise to the filing against it of a petition for relief or reorganization or arrangement or any other petition in bankruptcy or for liquidation or to take advantage of any bankruptcy, insolvency or other debtors’ relief law of any jurisdiction; (iii) makes an assignment for the benefit of its creditors; (iv) consents to the appointment of a custodian, receiver, trustee or other officer with similar powers of Contractor or of any substantial part of Contractor’s property; or (v) takes action for the purpose of any of the foregoing.

(d) A court or government authority enters an order (i) appointing a custodian, receiver, trustee or other officer with similar powers with respect to Contractor or with respect to any substantial part of Contractor’s property, (ii) constituting an order for relief or approving a petition for relief or reorganization or arrangement or any other petition in bankruptcy or for liquidation or to take advantage of any bankruptcy, insolvency or other

debtors' relief law of any jurisdiction or (iii) ordering the dissolution, winding-up or liquidation of Contractor.

8.2.2 On and after any Event of Default, City shall have the right to exercise its legal and equitable remedies, including, without limitation, the right to terminate this Agreement or to seek specific performance of all or any part of this Agreement. In addition, where applicable, City shall have the right (but no obligation) to cure (or cause to be cured) on behalf of Contractor any Event of Default; Contractor shall pay to City on demand all costs and expenses incurred by City in effecting such cure, but under no circumstance shall Contractor be required to replace or incur any costs for replacing Contractor's System. City shall have the right to offset from any amounts due to Contractor under this Agreement or any other agreement between City and Contractor: (i) all damages, losses, costs or expenses incurred by City as a result of an Event of Default; and (ii) any liquidated damages levied upon Contractor pursuant to the terms of this Agreement; and (iii), any damages imposed by any ordinance or statute that is incorporated into this Agreement by reference, or into any other agreement with the City.

8.2.3 All remedies provided for in this Agreement may be exercised individually or in combination with any other remedy available hereunder or under applicable laws, rules and regulations. The exercise of any remedy shall not preclude or in any way be deemed to waive any other remedy. Nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a waiver or limitation of any rights that City may have under applicable law.

8.2.4 Any notice of default must be sent by registered mail to the address set forth in Article 11.

8.3 **Non-Waiver of Rights.** The omission by either party at any time to enforce any default or right reserved to it, or to require performance of any of the terms, covenants, or provisions hereof by the other party at the time designated, shall not be a waiver of any such default or right to which the party is entitled, nor shall it in any way affect the right of the party to enforce such provisions thereafter.

8.4 **Rights and Duties upon Termination or Expiration.**

8.4.1 This Section and the following Sections of this Agreement listed below, shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement:

3.3.2	Payment Limited to Satisfactory Services	9.1	Ownership of Results and Work Product
3.4	Audit and Inspection of Records	11.6	Dispute Resolution Procedure
3.5	Submitting False Claims	11.7	Agreement Made in California; Venue
Article 5	Insurance and Indemnity	11.8	Construction
Article 6	Liability of the Parties	11.9	Entire Agreement
		11.10	Compliance with Laws
Article 7	Payment of Taxes	11.11	Severability
8.1.6	Payment Obligation	13.1	Nondisclosure of Private, Proprietary or Confidential